

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A multivalent F_v antibody construct having at least four variable domains, wherein said variable variable domains are linked with one another via a peptide linker 1, a peptide linker 2 and a peptide linker 3, wherein said peptide linker 1 and said peptide linker 3 have about 1 to about 10 amino acids.
2. (Previously amended) The F_v antibody construct of Claim 1, wherein said peptide linker 1 and peptide linker 3 have the amino acid sequence GG.
3. (Previously amended) The F_v antibody construct of Claim 1, wherein said F_v antibody construct is bivalent.
4. (Previously amended) The F_v antibody construct of Claim 3, wherein said peptide linker 2 has about 11 to about 20 amino acids.
5. (Currently amended) The F_v antibody construct of Claim 3 or 4, wherein said peptide linker 2 has the amino acid sequence (G₄S)₄ (SEQ ID NO: 14).
6. (Previously amended) The F_v antibody construct of Claim 1, wherein said F_v antibody construct is tetravalent.
7. (Previously amended) The F_v antibody construct of Claim 6, wherein said peptide linker 2 has about 3 to about 10 amino acids.
8. (Previously amended) The F_v antibody construct of Claim 6 or 7, wherein said peptide linker 2 comprises the amino acid sequence GGPGS.
9. (Previously amended) The F_v antibody construct of Claim 1, wherein said F_v antibody construct is multispecific.
10. (Previously amended) The F_v antibody construct of Claim 9, wherein said F_v antibody construct is bispecific.

11. (Previously amended) The F_v antibody construct of Claim 1, wherein said F_v antibody construct is monospecific.

12. (Currently amended) A method of producing the multivalent F_v antibody construct of Claim 1, comprising:

(a) ligating nucleic acids encoding a peptide linker 1, a peptide linker 2 and a peptide linker 3 with nucleic acids encoding four variable domains of an F_v antibody construct such that said peptide linker linkers 1, 2, and 3 link the variable domains with one another; and

(b) subcloning the nucleic acid of step (a) into an expression plasmid.

13. (Previously amended) An expression plasmid comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 22.

14. (Previously amended) The expression plasmid of Claim 13, wherein said expression plasmid is pDISC3x19-LL as deposited with DSM.

15. (Previously amended) The expression plasmid of Claim 13, wherein said expression plasmid is pDISC3x19-SL as deposited with DSM.

16. (Previously amended) The expression plasmid of Claim 13, wherein said expression plasmid is pPIC-DISC-LL as deposited with DSM.

17. (Previously amended) The expression plasmid of Claim 13, wherein said expression plasmid is pPIC-DISC-SL as deposited with DSM.

18. (Previously amended) The expression plasmid of Claim 13, wherein said expression plasmid is pDISC5-LL as deposited with DSM.

19. (Previously amended) The expression plasmid of Claim 13, wherein said expression plasmid is pDISC5-SL as deposited with DSM.

20. (Previously amended) A composition comprising the multivalent F_v antibody construct of Claim 1 for diagnosis and/or treatment of a disease.

21. (Previously amended) The composition of Claim 20, wherein said disease is a viral, a bacterial or a tumoral disease.

22. (Previously amended) A nucleic acid encoding the F_v antibody construct of Claim 1.

23. (Previously amended) A host cell comprising the expression plasmid of Claim 13.

24. (Previously amended) A method of treating a disease, comprising administering the composition of Claim 20.

25. (Previously amended) A method of making a multivalent F_v antibody construct, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 23 under conditions that said multivalent F_v antibody construct is expressed.